

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**The Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
**Fishing and Boating Services**  
*Closure of Upper Chesapeake Bay to Oyster Harvest — Effective 1/28/2020*

**WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES**

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces that, except as provided in the public notices described below, the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries north of the northernmost spans of the Gov. William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial and the R. Clayton Mitchell Jr. (Kent Narrows) bridges are closed to all oyster harvest. This notice supersedes all notices effective prior to January 28, 2020 affecting oyster harvest areas north of the northernmost spans of the Gov. William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial and the R. Clayton Mitchell Jr. (Kent Narrows) bridges.

**EXCEPTIONS TO CLOSED AREA**

The areas described in the notices listed below are exceptions to the closed area. Details of the openings are in each notice.

- [\*Partial Opening of Swan Point Oyster Bar \(Kent County\) — Effective 11/25/2019\*](#)
- [\*Partial Opening of Hells Delight Oyster Bar \(Queen Anne's County\) — Effective 12/16/2019\*](#)
- [\*Partial Opening of Piney Point Oyster Bar \(Queen Anne's County\) — Effective 12/16/2019\*](#)

**PURPOSE OF THIS CLOSURE**

This closure is necessary due to low abundance of oysters, low natural spat set, and potential impacts of persistently low salinity levels. Specific sites previously planted by county oyster committees may be opened in a future notice.

**WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS**

This closure applies to all individuals who catch oysters recreationally or commercially.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

The closure is effective at 12:01 a.m. January 28, 2020. The area is closed until further notice. A new notice will be issued when the area or any previously planted portion of the area is reopened to harvest.

**AUTHORITY**

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.04.11G

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Fishing and Boating Services at 410-260-8302

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio  
Secretary of Natural Resources